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## FROZEN FOOD LOCKER AND FREEZER PROVISIONING PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Twenty-Fourth Annual Count, January 1961

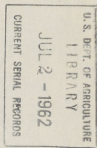
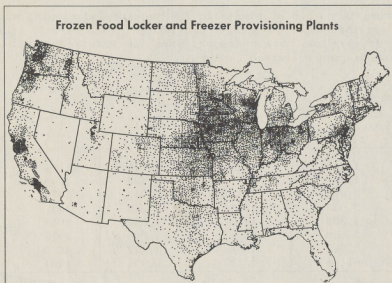
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An estimated 10,365<sup>1</sup> frozen food locker and freezer provisioning plants were operating in the United States in January 1961 (table 1). This was 490 more plants than were operating a year earlier. Indications are that between 85 and 90 percent of all plants provide locker rental service in addition to processing and merchandising services. The remaining plants have no lockers but specialize in processing and merchandising frozen foods, principally to homefreezer owners. The increase in total number of plants is due largely to the increasing number of these homefreezer provisioning plants (table 2).

The accompanying dot map shows the approximate geographic distribution of plants in the industry in 1961.

Many States have amended, or are considering amending, their "frozen food locker" laws to include under these laws those plants not renting lockers but engaged in the freezer provisioning business. Generally these plants are required to obtain licenses and conform to standards established for frozen food locker plants, such as standards of sanitation, and requirements regulating labeling, processing equipment, and facilities.

<sup>1</sup>This count is based on information supplied by various State departments and other agencies, some of which had no record of the number of freezer provisioning plants.



Note: Appreciation is expressed to officials of State Departments of Agriculture, State Extension Services, and State locker associations for their cooperation in providing information to Farmer Cooperative Service.

Table 1. - Locker and freezer provisioning plants by States, January 1961

| State and region | Number           | State and region | Number           | State and region | Number          |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Maine            | 20               | Maryland         | 52               | Montana          | 177             |
| New Hampshire    | 11               | Delaware         | 11               | Idaho            | 172             |
| Vermont          | 24               | Virginia         | 59               | Wyoming          | 78              |
| Massachusetts    | <sup>1</sup> 27  | West Virginia    | <sup>2</sup> 16  | Colorado         | 248             |
| Rhode Island     | 8                | North Carolina   | 101              | Utah             | 116             |
| Connecticut      | 42               | South Carolina   | 60               | Nevada           | 22              |
| New York         | <sup>2</sup> 236 | Georgia          | 85               | New Mexico       | 61              |
| New Jersey       | 33               | Florida          | 36               | Arizona          | <sup>2</sup> 44 |
| Pennsylvania     | 272              | South Atlantic   | 420              | Mountain         | 918             |
| North Atlantic   | 673              | Kentucky         | 86               | Washington       | 564             |
| Ohio             | 595              | Tennessee        | 86               | Oregon           | 397             |
| Indiana          | 373              | Alabama          | 62               | California       | 612             |
| Michigan         | 270              | Mississippi      | 58               | Alaska           | (3)             |
| Wisconsin        | 612              | Arkansas         | 94               | Hawaii           | 6               |
| Illinois         | 472              | Louisiana        | <sup>1</sup> 39  | Pacific          | 1,579           |
| Minnesota        | 1,010            | Oklahoma         | 191              |                  |                 |
| Iowa             | 726              | Texas            | <sup>1</sup> 417 | United States    | <u>10,365</u>   |
| Missouri         | 402              | South Central    | 1,033            |                  |                 |
| North Dakota     | 190              |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| South Dakota     | 182              |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| Nebraska         | 445              |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| Kansas           | 465              |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| North Central    | <u>5,742</u>     |                  |                  |                  |                 |

<sup>1</sup>1959 count.<sup>2</sup>1980 count.<sup>3</sup>Not available.

The general trend in number of plants in the industry--declining number of locker plants and increasing number of freezer provisioning plants--will probably continue for some time as more and more consumers purchase home freezers and the industry adjusts to this changing marketing condition.

Table 2. - Number of frozen food locker plants, 1938-1961

| Year | Total plants | Year | Total plants | Year | Total plants        |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|---------------------|
| 1938 | 1,269        | 1946 | 8,025        | 1954 | 10,854              |
| 1939 | 1,861        | 1947 | 9,529        | 1955 | 10,553              |
| 1940 | 2,870        | 1948 | 10,617       | 1956 | 10,344              |
| 1941 | 3,623        | 1949 | 11,245       | 1957 | 9,894               |
| 1942 | 4,323        | 1950 | 11,569       | 1958 | 9,611               |
| 1943 | 4,559        | 1951 | 11,608       | 1959 | 9,271               |
| 1944 | 5,282        | 1952 | 11,427       | 1960 | <sup>1</sup> 9,875  |
| 1945 | 6,484        | 1953 | 10,954       | 1961 | <sup>1</sup> 10,365 |

<sup>1</sup>Includes freezer provisioners.